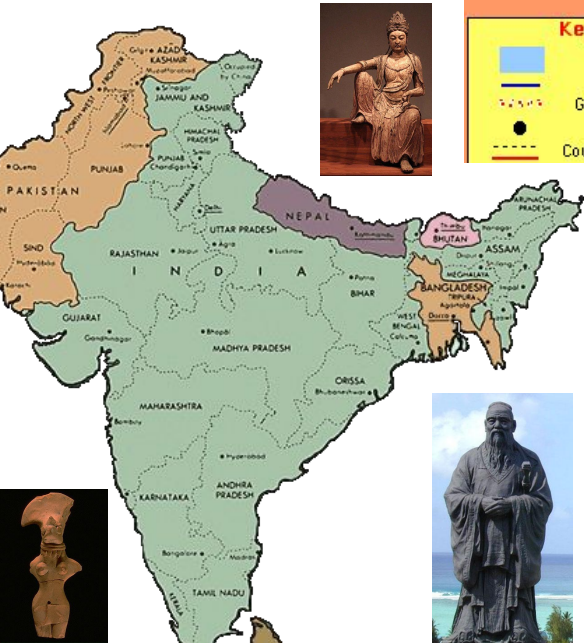
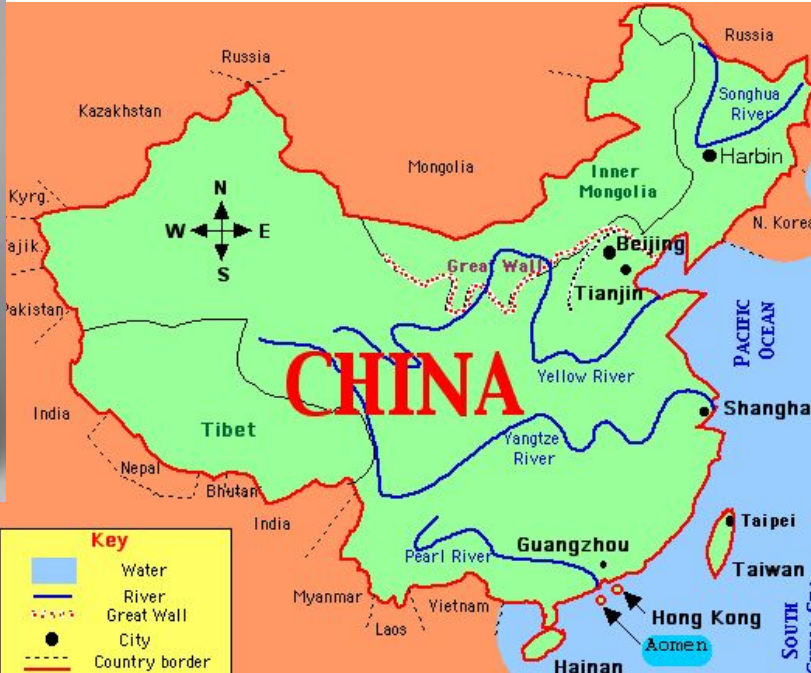


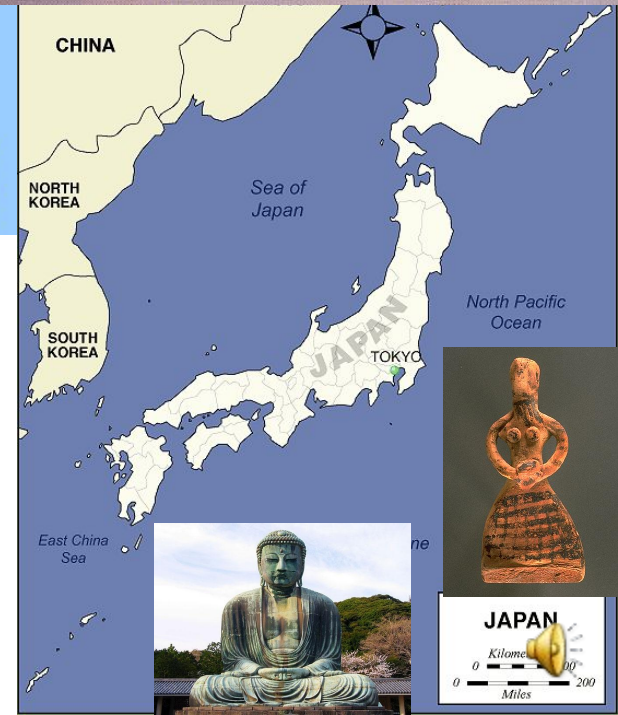


WELCOME TO ANCIENT ASIA!

HIS 219-J F2021 OCCC



**PROFESSOR
MICHAEL STRMISKA**



DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

- This course provides a historical introduction to the ancient civilizations of India, China and Japan. The great empires and dynasties of these countries will be explored along with the religious, philosophical and cultural traditions that developed in ancient India, China and Japan. Fulfills Category D (GE 6) Social Science, ELEC Elective, GE 6 SUNY Other World History, LIB Liberal Arts Elective, and SSE Social Science Elective.



STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES PT.

1: STUDENTS IN THIS COURSE WILL...

- Demonstrate familiarity with the geography and natural environments of India, China and Japan.
- Identify and describe key events and cultural trends in the history of India, China and Japan from ancient times through the medieval period.
- Demonstrate understanding of the different dynasties and kingdoms in ancient India, China and Japan as well as their particular forms of government and distinctive styles of social organization.



STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES PT.

2: STUDENTS IN THIS COURSE WILL...

- Examine religious, philosophical & artistic traditions of India, China and Japan and analyze their influence on the development of society, culture, and government in the different respective societies.
- Critically analyze primary text documents from ancient Indian, Chinese and Japanese history and engage with problems of interpretation.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze Asian history through written work, including research papers.



If **you** need **help**...

- **Professor Strmiska's
Pre-Covid OCCC Office:**
Hudson Hall 114A
- (Middletown Campus)
- Not operative for
Spring-Summer-Fall
2020.
- E-mail:
[michael.strmiska@
sunyorange.edu](mailto:michael.strmiska@sunyorange.edu).
- **Office Hours (not in use
Fall 2020):**
- Mon/Wed/Friday,
11:00am - 12:00pm,
Tues/Thurs 11:00-11:30
- **Please
communicate
through email!**
- [michael.strmiska@
sunyorange.edu](mailto:michael.strmiska@sunyorange.edu).



Assignments & Grades:

- (1) **Weekly chapter-analysis papers** (500 words) uploaded to online “drop box”.
- (2) **Weekly news article** copied and uploaded to drop box.
- (3) **Weekly discussion forum participation** contributing comments *and* responses.
- (4) **Mid-Term Research Paper** (2000 words) on topic from list of topics given by professor.
- (5) **Final Research Paper.**
- **Grading System:**
 - **Chapter papers: 40%** of grade.
 - **News articles: 10%.**
 - **Online Participation (viewing lectures, contributing to discussion forum): 10%.**
 - **Mid-term research paper: 20%** of grade.
 - **Final research paper: 20%.**
 - **Note: Weekly Zoom session is OPTIONAL time for open class discussion and is NOT graded.**

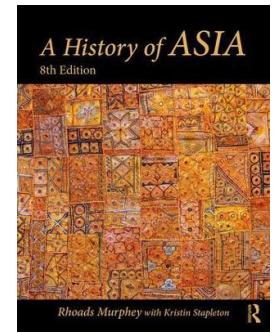


Online Lectures in Narrated PowerPoint form

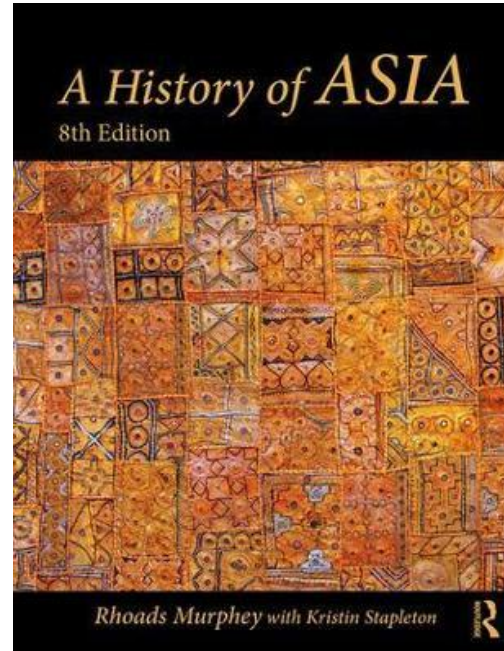
- To compensate for the lack of in-class lectures, the **Blackboard** Site has narrated **PowerPoint** slide show presentations, one per week per chapter, for you to look at.
- Find under **Content** folders marked per week or per unit, inside of which are PPT files marked **Chapter One**, **Chapter Two**, etc., corresponding to the related chapters in our textbook ***A History of Asia***.
- These presentations provide **maps, images, timelines** and other materials to **complement the textbook chapters**, along with narration by your faithful professor providing commentary on each slide, thereby recreating the experience of the course in its original in-class version.



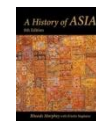
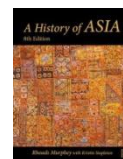
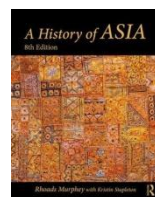
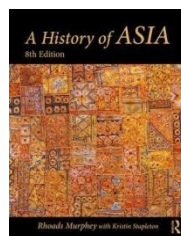
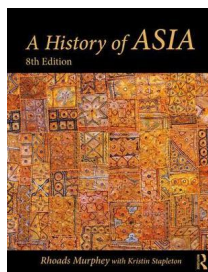
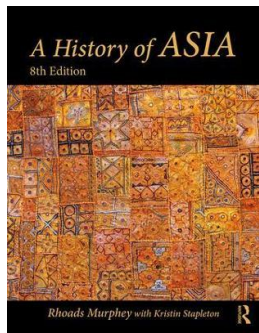
Textbook: *A History of Asia* by Rhoads Murphey (2019)



- (earlier editions OK)
published by Routledge
- Paperback ISBN-13:
[9780815378600](https://www.routledge.com/9780815378600)
- eBook rental ISBN:
[9780815378600](https://www.routledge.com/9780815378600)



- Text available in college bookstore or can be ordered online, *but make sure you pay for a definite delivery date.*
- There will be readings of one or more chapters per week from this textbook, for most weeks of the class.



Chapter Analysis Papers:

- Students are required to write, and then submit online to the **Unit Chapter Paper** drop-box, one-page, typed, single-spaced **chapter analysis essays, on a weekly basis.**
- Required length **500** words minimum.
- You **summarize two-three topics** that you found in the unit's textbook chapter, and then **add your own commentary and analysis.**
- You do **NOT** have to **summarize the entire chapter**, just 2-3 points you find important and interesting.



Still more about Chapter Papers

- About the chapter papers, it is important to remember that **you have two tasks.**
- You both **report on 2-3 topics** (the summarizing task), drawing on the information contained **in the chapter**, and
- **Provide your own commentary/ analysis**, drawing on the **thinking ability in your own private, personal brain. !!**
- **Grading scale** for Chapter Analysis papers:
 - **C** grade: **summary** of several chapter topic(s), little or no analysis.
 - **B** grade: **summary** of chapter topic(s) & commentary/analysis, with **weaknesses** in one section or the other.
 - **A** grade: summary & commentary/analysis, **both sections well-organized and thoughtful.**



News Articles:

- Students are required to search on the internet for news on the current-day situation in any of the countries of interest in this course (India, China, Taiwan, Japan).
- Copy article into a Word document, include URL, upload to Drop Box.
- You can also discuss your article in the week's Discussion Forum or Zoom meeting.
- Some recommended news web sites:
<http://www.nytimes.com>,
<http://www.csmonitor.com>,
<http://www.bbc.com>,
<http://www.economist.com>
<http://www.globalpost.com>
-
- Local news papers not recommended; they rarely have much international news in any depth.



If you are adventurous...

- **Go online** and seek out English-language news publications from countries under discussion.
- **Just type in a country name & English language news**, and you will probably find a news site you can use.
- For **example...**
 - If you want to know more about the fiery **Curry Crisis** in India, try <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/us>
 - If you are worried about the brutal **Panda War** raging in South China, go to <https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/>
 - If you want to meet Japan's new **Anime Emperor**, look at <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/>



Weekly Discussion Forum about Chapter Papers and News Articles

- You are also required to participate in an **online discussion forum for each unit**, contributing **one good paragraph** (3-5 sentences minimum), either sharing points from your chapter analysis paper or using the general theme of “**High Points & Low Points**” of the periods and countries under consideration, that you post on the forum.
- This Hi-Lo approach could also be more crudely described as giving your own opinion about “**What I think is awesome** about this era in East Asian history versus **what sucks** about it.”
- **Do not repeat** what others have said in their postings on the forum. There are plenty of things to talk / write about!
- You may also discuss your news articles in the forum.



More... um...on the Forum

- It is perfectly fine to **recycle** points from your weekly papers and to share and discuss your weekly news articles.
- The forum should lead to **discussion back and forth** between students.
- The professor may also add comments from time to time, but the main focus is on **student discussion**.
- If there are problems with the forum, such as insulting or disrespectful behavior, let me know.



Overall Class Structure and Optional Zoom Meetings

- This is a fully online, distance learning (DL) class, with powerpoint lectures and online discussion.
- There will be weekly **optional** Zoom meetings for discussing the class in general, for sharing news articles about Asia, for the professor to explain class assignments and answer questions, and for keeping in touch to feel connected.
- Students are NOT required to attend these meetings, as they are totally ~optional~.
- Your grade will NOT be penalized if you do not attend the Zoom meetings, but attending may help you feel better and do better.
- The idea is to use Zoom to have a relaxed place to keep in touch and communicate about the class, but not for serious class work such as lectures.



Research Papers

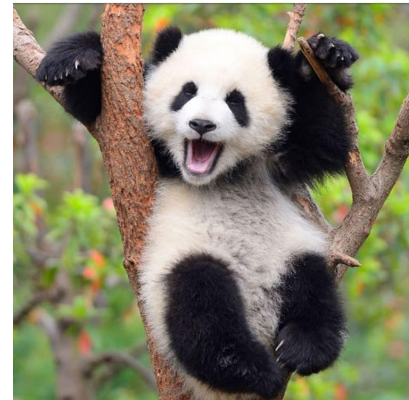
- The class will have no mid-term or final exam. Instead, you will write a mid-term research paper and a final research paper, each 2000 words.
- You will choose a topic for your papers from a list provided by the professor.
- You will be given support and guidance for how to carry out the research, and can always email the prof. when you need help.
- 1. **Introduction**, stating topic in general way and indicating how you are approaching the topic
- 2. **Main body**, detailed discussion of topic drawing on the information sources you have collected
- 3. **Conclusion**, summarizing key findings, also including your own opinions/reflections.
- 4. **Bibliography (list of sources)**.
- Note: The required length for the paper: **2000 words + bibliography**.



HIS 219 :: Ancient Asia ::

Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK ONE: Week beginning Monday Aug. 23.**
- *Optional* Zoom Meeting Thursday August 26 9:30-10:45 am.
- Introductions; tour of syllabus; PPT lecture on **Chapter One: *Prehistoric Asia***. Doc. film TBA.
- No chapter analysis paper required, but upload first newspaper article.
- Please post **self-introduction**, first Asian news article and any thoughts on the week's chapter to **Discussion Forum**
- Please also submit **Student Information Sheet** to the cheerful online drop box.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK TWO:** Week beginning Monday Aug. 30. Chapter Two: *Asian Religions and Their Cultures*. **Optional** Zoom Meeting Thursday Sept.2. Documentary film TBA.
- Read chapter; view powerpoint lecture; upload chapter analysis paper and Asian news article; post some thoughts in the discussion forum about the chapter and respond to someone else. You can also share your news article for the week in the forum, if you like.
- **This will be the standard pattern of work for each week.**
- **WEEK THREE:** Week beginning Monday Sept. 6. Chapter Three: *The Traditional Societies of Asia*. Documentary film TBA. Chapter analysis paper, news article and discussion forum required.
- **WEEK FOUR:** Week beginning Monday September 13. Chapter Four: *The Civilization of Ancient India*. Same pattern as in previous weeks.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK FIVE:** Week beginning Monday September 20. Not using textbook this week. Instead, professor will provide online readings on Hindu, Buddhist and Jain religion and philosophy chapter on Indian religion from *The Wonder That Was India*, and excerpts from *The Rig Veda*, *The Upanishads*, *The Bhagavad Gita* and other texts. Usual pattern of work.
- **WEEK SIX:** Week beginning Monday September 27. Chapter Five: *Civilization of Ancient China*. Usual pattern of work.
- **WEEK SEVEN:** Week beginning October 4. Online readings on Chinese religion and philosophy: excerpts from Lao-Tse, Chuang-Tzu, Confucius and Mencius texts. Usual pattern of work.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK EIGHT:** Week beginning Monday October 11. Chapter Eight: *China: A Golden Age*. Usual pattern except....
- List of topics for first research papers will be given out. Students should send their top three choices to professor for his approval before beginning research.
- **WEEK NINE:** Week beginning Monday October 18.
:: **Research begins....::**
- *Optional* Zoom meeting for students to discuss their projects and for professor to provide advice about use of resources, format of paper, etc.
- No chapter papers or news articles.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK TEN:** Week beginning Monday October 25. **Research Continues.**
- **Optional Zoom Meeting Thursday October 28 to discuss progress and problems with research papers.** Continue work on research papers.
- No chapter analysis paper or news article required.
- **WEEK ELEVEN:** Week beginning Monday Nov. 1. Research papers due Thursday November 4, to be discussed in the weekly Zoom meeting for those interested or able to attend. A new PPT lecture will be provided for **Chapter Nine: *Early, Classical, and Medieval Japan and Korea.***
- No chapter analysis paper or news article due this week.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

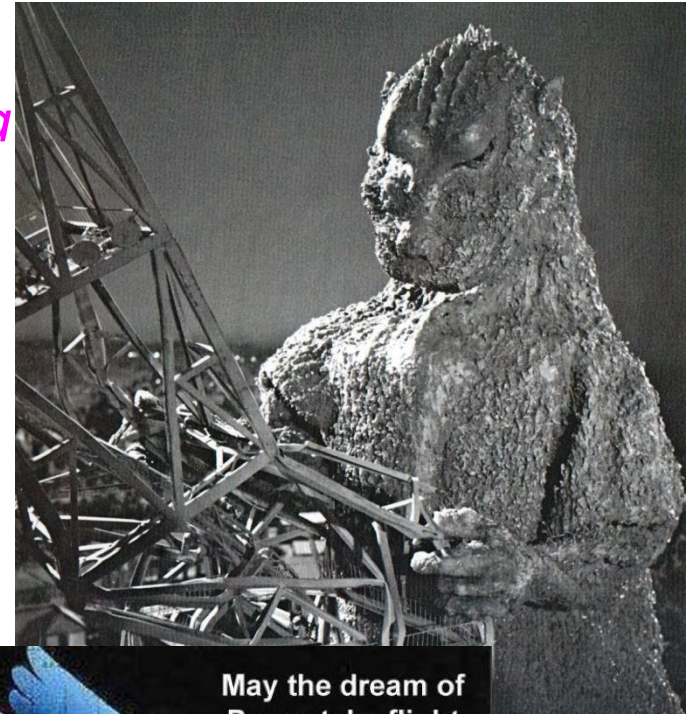
- **WEEK 12: Week beginning Monday Nov. 8.** Back to normal pattern of weekly work. Online readings on Japanese religion and philosophy will be provided, with excerpts from Shinto, Zen Buddhism, Nichiren Buddhism and Pure Land Buddhism texts. Weekly paper on readings, Asian news article, forum. Film: “Hoichi the Earless,” from classic Japanese horror film *Kwaidan*. Chapter analysis paper, news article, discussion forum required.
- **WEEK 13: Week beginning Mon. Nov. 15.** Online readings on Japanese art and poetry and the approach of second research papers! Please check list of topics sent out by professor and send him your top three choices for research papers on Japanese history & culture. Final chapter analysis paper and news article.
- **WEEK 14: Week beginning Mon. Nov. 22. Optional Zoom cancelled due to Thanksgiving on Thurs. Nov. 25.** While eating turkey sushi, begin work on Japanese research projects. No other work due this week.



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Weekly Schedule :: F2021

- **WEEK FIFTEEN:** Week beginning Monday November 29. Research. *Optional* Zoom to discuss research progress.
- **FINAL WEEK:** Week beginning Monday December 6. Research papers due Wednesday Dec. 8 (extensions possible).
- Final *optional* Thursday Zoom meeting will involve students discussing their final papers, evaluating the class, and toasting the end of the term with virtual *sake*! And final prayer to Godzilla.



The **End** of **Asia**?

(the end of Asian History in **this** class, anyway!)



- **Comments, questions, problems, prophecies:**
- michael.strmiska@sunyorange.edu
- **Thank you** for your work in the class!

